

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PARM, NATO

SUBJECT:MBFR: FLANK SECURITY

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REF: A. NATO 1683, B. ROME 4537

BEGIN FYI:

1. WE BELIEVE BEST COURSE FOR US TO FOLLOW WITH RESPECT TO ITALIAN LANGUAGE ON FLANK SECURITY IS TO MAKE EFFORT TO GET ITALY TO AGREE TO DROP ITS FORMULATIONS REFERRING TO AREAS CONTIGUOUS TO SPECIAL PARTICIPANTS AND TO AGREE TO POSTPONE QUESTION OF HOW TO DEAL WITH HUNGARY (I.E., AREAS CONTIGUOUS TO THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS) UNTIL ALLIANCE DISCUSSES NON-CIRCUMVENTION. THIS LATTER IS MORE THAN A FLANK SECURITY MATTER. IF GOI INSISTS ON ITS PRESENT APPROACH, WE WOULD PREFER TO ADOPT COURSE MISSION SUGGESTS IN PARA. 10, REFTTEL A (I.E., SUPPORT ANOTHER PERIOD OF REFLECTION) RATHER THAN ALLOW GUIDANCE TO REFER TO SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS. PARA. 5 OF REFTTEL B, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO INDICATE SOME ITALIAN FLEXIBILITY AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT DEMARCHE AUTHORIZED (SEPTTEL) WILL HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT.

2. SHOULD ITALIANS AGREE TO DROP REFERENCE TO AREAS CONTIGUOUS TO NGA UNTIL NON-CIRCUMVENTION DISCUSSION, THEN EXPEDITIOUS GUIDANCE TO AHG ON FLANK SECURITY MAY BE POSSIBLE. WE WOULD HOPE, IN SUCH A CASE, THAT FLANK CONCERNS WILL BE CONSIDERED TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY MET. WE CANNOT, OF COURSE PREVENT ANY ALLY FROM REOPENING QUESTION OF SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC AREAS WHETHER WITH RESPECT TO FLANKS OR HUNGARY. CLEARLY, BOTH THE ITALIANS AND THE FLANK STATES WILL BE FREE TO RAISE GEOGRAPHIC ISSUE IN THE CONTEXT OF NON-CIRCUMVENTION. WE WOULD LIKE TO AVOID, HOWEVER, FORMAL INTERNAL UNDERSTANDING THAT ALLIES COULD RETURN TO GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS ISSUE.

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO DOUBT THAT IN MBFR CONTEXT HUNGARY IS A CASE WHICH WILL DEMAND SPECIAL CONSIDERATION. HENCE, WE CANNOT PLAUSIBLY ASK ITALIANS TO DROP ISSUE COMPLETELY. BY MOVING HUNGARIAN ISSUE TO NON-CIRCUMVENTION, HOWEVER, WE DIVORCE IT FROM FLANK SECURITY AND PERHAPS MAKE IT EASIER TO HANDLE. WE, OF COURSE, CAN GIVE THE ITALIANS NO ASSURANCES WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT HUNGARY UNTIL WE HAVE CONSIDERED NON-CIRCUMVENTION PROBLEM.

4. IN THIS REGARD, MISSION AND OTHER ADDRESSEES SHOULD ONLY
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REFER TO OUR WILLINGNESS TO DEAL IN NON-CIRCUMVENTION WITH QUESTION OF HUNGARY, AND NOT WITH GENERAL DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC AREAS. WE CONTINUE TO OPPOSE ANY EFFORT TO DEFINE MORE PRECISELY SPECIAL GEOGRAPHIC AREAS IF THIS WOULD TEND TO ENLARGE THE AREA COVERED BY THE NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND THE NGA. END FYI. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHD ANKARA

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